



SUSAN BYSIEWICZ

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE

COACH CALHOUN JOINS THE TEAM!

Coach Jim Calhoun has joined our team! No, he is not giving up his day job but he will be appearing in my office's television and radio commercials promoting the new optical scan voting machines and the vote-by-phone system. The spots are part of my office's aggressive effort to reach out and educate Connecticut residents prior to the November municipal elections.

The spots include two 30 second television advertisements, and two 60 second radio spots focusing on the new optical scan voting machines and the vote-by-phone system. They will begin airing across Connecticut on October 15th and will run through Election Day.



THE NUMBER OF FEMALE CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR & 1ST SELECTMAN IS ON THE RISE

I am excited to announce that the number of female candidates for municipal top office is on the rise, as evidenced by the percentage of female candidates listed on the current roster for the upcoming general election.

The number of women who are candidates in the November general election for mayor or first selectman is 54 out of 248 total candidates - or roughly 21% of the field. There were 52 female candidates running in the 2005 general election and just 44 female candidates for mayor or first selectman in 1997.

It is great news that more women are running for mayor and first selectman. Both major political parties, the Women's Campaign School at Yale University, and the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women deserve credit for their work in recruiting women.

The number of women involved in local politics appears to be on the rise but gender equality at town hall remains an elusive goal in Connecticut. Despite comprising more than half the electorate, women make up only about 20% of the candidates - and eventual winners - when it comes to the top office in our cities and towns. We should all be concerned that women are so woefully represented and look for ways to encourage more women to run for office.



Above: Photos from the commercial shoot

Visit one of the Largest Small and Minority-Owned Business Networking Events in CT

As part of my office's continuing effort to help small and minority-owned business grow in Connecticut, my office will host our 16th Small and Minority-owned Business Showcase at the Hartford Learning Corridor on Friday October 12th and Saturday October 13th. Small businesses in Connecticut are responsible for 96% of the new jobs created over the past ten years, and the growth of these businesses helps to expand our state's economy and job base. We need to continue our efforts to promote small and minority-owned businesses if we are to truly commit ourselves to quality job growth.

This year, for the first time, the showcase will be two days long. Friday is devoted to workshops tailored to benefit the needs of entrepreneurs and will include topics such as: financing, marketing/promotion, product safety, bonding and procurement. Saturday the exhibition will feature over 115 small businesses displaying their services. For more information or to register visit: www.CTShowcase.org



SOTS Trivia Corner

Who was Connecticut's last colonial governor?

Check back next time for the answer.

*Previous Issues Answer:
Roger Sherman and William Samuel Johnson signed the Constitution on behalf of CT.*



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